

# Spirit of Lincoln Youth Leadership Academy

*Inspiring young people with a heritage based message of integrity and courage.*

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

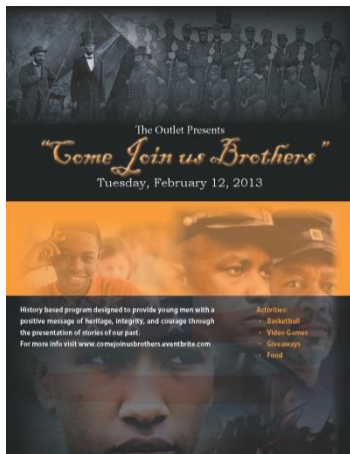
Lincoln Home  
National Historic Site



*You cannot fail if you resolutely determine that you will not.*  
Abraham Lincoln, 1860

*The spirit of Lincoln still lives.*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., 1944

## “COME JOIN US BROTHERS”



On February 12, 2013, in recognition of the 204th birthday of Abraham Lincoln and the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the authorization of the use of African American Soldiers in the Civil War, **Lincoln Home National Historic Site, The Outlet, the Old State Capitol State Historic Site** and the **Abraham Lincoln Association** presented “Come Join us Brothers” a day long youth mentoring history program at **Abundant Faith Christian Center** in Springfield, Illinois.



middle and high school with a positive message of heritage, integrity and courage though the presentation of stories of the past from slavery through the Civil War. The program utilized films, including “Underground” and “Glory,” as well as

presentations by historians and local community members to reach young men on the importance and benefit of knowing their heritage. Program partner, Mike Phelon, of The Outlet, [www.theoutletillinois.org/](http://www.theoutletillinois.org/), commented that “We want to impart into the youth that their past doesn't determine their future, yet our shared past can serve to inspire when times get tough.”



“Come Join us Brothers” included a variety of team building activities with the culminating activity, sponsored by the **Springfield African American History Museum**, the creation of “vision boards.” The young men created their vision boards to represent what they want to be, do, or have in their life that was inspired from what they learned, see



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Presenters included, Pastor Jerry Doss, Abundant Faith Christian Center; Terry Ransom, Illinois Underground Railroad historian; Robert J. Davis, actor and 29th USCT historian; Larry Hemingway Sr., **Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.**; Winston Taylor, **Springfield Housing Authority**; Roy Williams, Jr., **Faith Coalition for the Common Good**; Rena Douglas, **Springfield Urban League, 21st Century Program**; Ikeena Martin, Program Director, **Goodwill Goodguides**;



David Wachtveitl, Lincoln Home National Historic Site; and Mike Burke, Old State Capitol State Historic Site. For media coverage see [www.sj-r.com/article/20130213/NEWS/302139833/0/SEARCH](http://www.sj-r.com/article/20130213/NEWS/302139833/0/SEARCH) .

For more information, please contact Lincoln Home National Historic Site at 217-391-3222.